

## Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 /076 W  
----- 030027

R 071300Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7106

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH, ZA, BC

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF ANC SPLIT

REF: A) GABORONE 1352; B) PRETORIA 3812

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE' OCTOBER 7, SECRETARY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TIBONE CONFIRMED MEETING WITH "NKOMO ANC" DELEGATION AT HIS HOME (REF A). HE SAID THAT DELEGATION HAD CALLED TO BRIEF GOB ON STRENGTH AND SUPPORT INSIDE RHODESIA IN ORDER TO CONVINCE GOB THAT KNOMO MERITED THEIR SUPPORT. ACCORDING TO TIBONE, HE AND OTHER GOB OFFICIALS PRESENT AGREED TO PASS THE BRIEFING INFORMATION ON TO THE PRESIDENT BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS OF SUPPORT. TIBONE SAID GOB STILL INTENDS TO WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER 26 "CONSULTATIVE MEETING" BY MUZOREWA GROUP BEFORE CONSIDERING SUPPORT FOR EITHER SIDE. HE REITERATED THAT GOB IS IMPATIENT WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF ANC FOR FAILING TO  
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MAINTAIN UNITY.

2. EXTAFF OFFICER DISEKO, WHO STUDIED IN RHODESIA, DISCUSSED VISIT OF NKOMO REPRESENTATIVE WITH EMBOFF EVENING OCTOBER 6. DISEKO STATED THAT THE PAIR CAME TO EXPLAIN VIEW OF "TRUE" ANC, I.E., NKOMO GROUP. ACCORDING TO DISEKO, SPLIT IN ANC IS NOW BEYOND REPAIR AND WILL SOON FORCE THE FOUR PRESIDENTS TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO BACK NKOMO OR MUROZEWA-SITHOLE WING.

3. DISEKO SAID THE NKOMO FOLLOWING IN ANC EXECUTIVE SO STRONG (43 OF 55 MEMBERS BY DISEKO'S COUNT) THAT OCTOBER 26 MEETING OF MUZOREWA GROUP WOULD HAVE TO BE CALLED "CONSULTATIVE MEETING" OR SOME TERMINOLOGY OTHER THAN "CONGRESS" BECAUSE OF LACK OF SUPPORT WITHIN EXECUTIVE. HE ALSO OFFERED PERSONAL OPINION THAT, ALTHOUGH FOUR PRESIDENTS WILL WAIT FOR OUTCOME OF OCTOBER 26 MEETING, THEY WILL END UP BACKING NKOMO IF SMITH DOES NOT DO SOMETHING IN NEAR FUTURE TO MAKE SUCH SUPPORT IMPOSSIBLE. HE FEELS THAT FOUR PRESIDENTS WILL MAKE THIS DECISION BECAUSE OF NKOMO STRENGTH AND THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID WAR.

COMMENT: DISEKO STUDIED UNDER BROTHER OF ONE OF NKOMO EMISSARIES AND IS QUITE CLEARLY PRO-NKOMO. HIS PERSONAL OPINIONS ARE OF INTEREST, HOWEVER, BECAUSE HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT VIEWS AND WOULD NOT LIKELY SPEAK IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION OF THEM.

4. OCTOBER 7 ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS CARRIES FRONTPAGE REUTERS ARTICLE ENTITLED "ANC SPLIT POSES QUERY". ARTICLE SAYS THAT QUOTE THE SPLIT IN ANC HAS PLACED THE REBEL COLONY'S BLACK NEIGHBORS IN A DILEMMA. HEADS OF STATES OF ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE AND BOTSWANA MUST SOON DECIDE WHICH MAN TO BACK UNQUOTE. ARTICLE DESCRIBES SPLIT BETWEEN KNOMO, WHOM IT DESCRIBES AS QUOTE A SEASONED CAMPAIGNER IN THE BLACK NATIONALIST STRUGGLE UNQUOTE AND MUZOREWA, AND STATES THAT QUOTE IF NO RECONCILIATION IS POSSIBLE, ONE GROUP MUST SECURE THE SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION UNQUOTE OF THE FOUR PRESIDENTS.

5. DAILY NEWS EDITOR CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF MORNING OCTOBER 7. THAT HIS PAPER HAD ALSO BEEN INSTRUCTED BY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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NOT TO REPORT ON VISIT OF KNOMO REPS (PARA 1, REF A) SO THAT GOB MIGHT REMAIN "EVEN-HANDED." REGARDING OCTOBER 7 ARTICLE, EDITOR STATED THAT REUTERS PIECE HAD BEEN RUN STRICTLY ON ITS MERITS WITH NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

(COMMENT: HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT IT DOES SERVE TO POINT OUT TO THE READERSHIP THE PROBABILITY THAT THE FOUR PRESIDENTS WILL HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN THE TWO "ANC'S").

THOMSEN

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## Message Attributes

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